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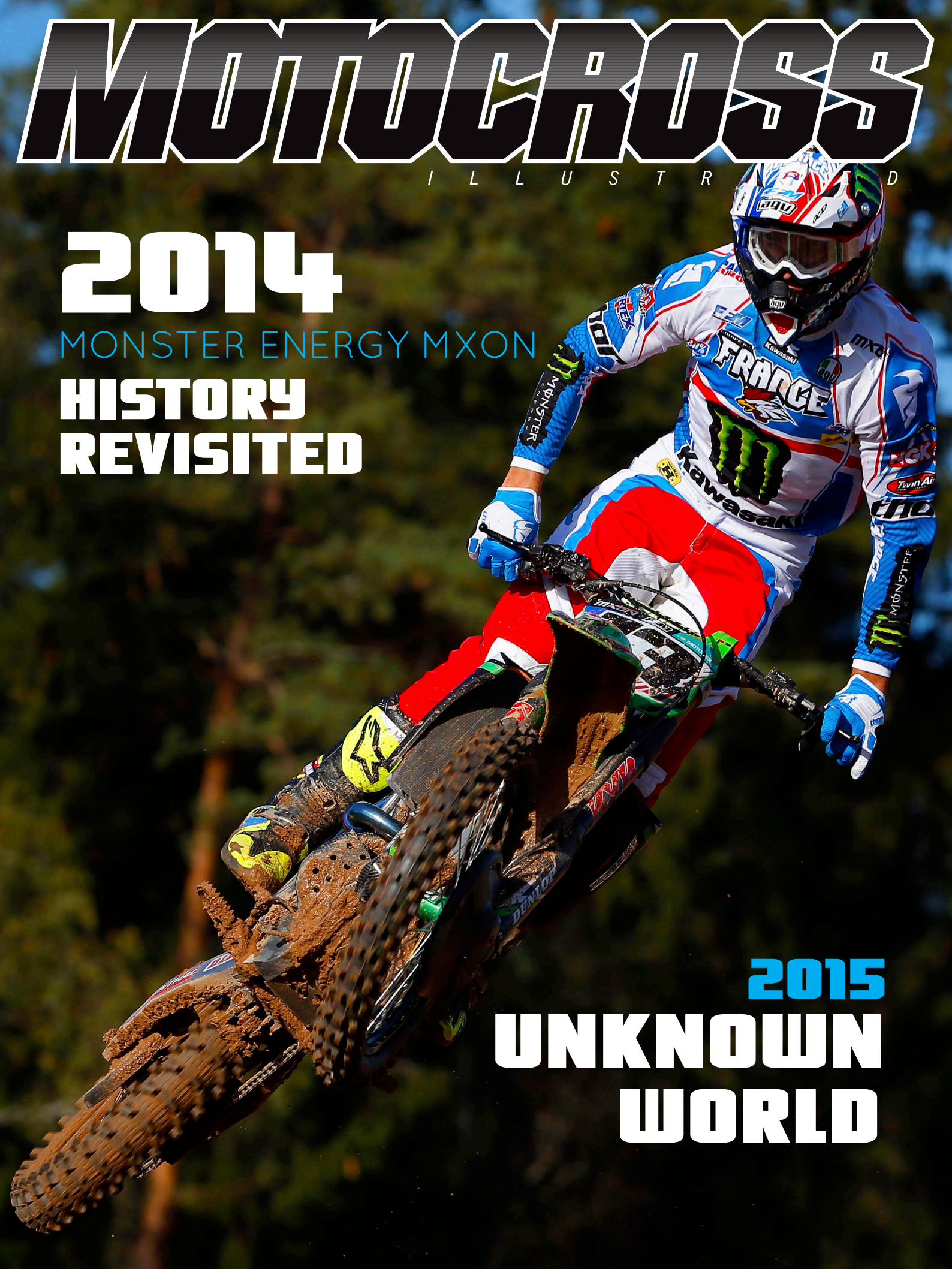

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2014 FIM MXGP WORLD CHAMPION

HISTORY REVISITED

Sometimes things just happen for a reason. Even when the odds are against you, you can pull through and create something special. For the second time in the history of the Motocross of Nations the French B-Team came through when many thought they couldn't.

STORY GEOFF MEYER IMAGES KAWASAKI

Back in 2001 David Vuillemin, Luigi Seguy and Yves Demaria humbled the home nation Belgium in the Namur held MXoN. Without riders like Mickael Pichon, Sebastien Tortelli, Frederik Bolley, or Stephane Roncada the French federation picked three riders who were not really expected to fight for the victory. Seguy had gotten himself to fourth in the World 125cc championship, Yves Demaria was ninth in the World 250 championship points and Vuillemin was fifth in the AMA 250 series points.

Together though and with some bad luck from Team Belgium these three led the world and picked up Frances first ever MXoN win.

Amazing to think some 13 years later it was again three riders who had mixed seasons who got picked. Sure enough Gautier Paulin just like Vuillemin was a well accepted selection, but Steven Frossard and Dylan Ferrandis were not really considered the best available and it was a fair comment.

Left out of the French team were World MX2 Champion Jordi Tixier, world number three in MX2 Romain Febvre and the two American based Frenchmen, Christophe Pourcel and Marvin Musquin.

Vuillemin who now works inside the industry was quick to point out that with this team his single victory by Team France would remain just that, and that there was no chance this French team could win.

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"Those guys (team selectors) do basically nothing other than wearing a federation shirt and watch the races. They don't even come to US to check out Marvin (Musquin) and Christophe (Pourcel) over here. Drives me nuts when I see that. It's good for me though. If they keep picking teams like that, I am gonna stay for a long time as the only French team that won the event."

Former World and AMA champion Grant Langston joined the list of high profile people that felt Team France had no chance. Langston who rode for Team South Africa in the MXoN clearly said Team France can't win the MXoN in a national broadcast in America. Media right across the World agreed with Vuillemin and Langston.

So what happened. Well, lead rider Gautier Paulin had a blinder, going 1-1 and really showing the world what a talent he is. He added these moto wins with his other MXoN moto wins from 2009 and 2011. His presence in the French Team was never in question, but still he felt his team had been let down by the public and media.

"Many said we were not good enough, well we showed them we were. Winning both races and the overall at the Motocross of Nations with the French team is crazy ! I won the qualifying race and both motos today; it was a dream to have such a weekend in this race. It's the sixth time that I've been a member of the French team and there was a great atmosphere between the three riders; we always gave each other information and advices to get the best result for the team. I'm proud that we achieved such a good result, and after my win in Mexico I end the season on a high note."

Amazingly the French MX2 rider Dylan Ferrandis had finished his season in the same position as Seguy back in 2001 (fourth) and his performance at Kegums, Latvia proved his future will continue to look bright. His 9-9 scores put him third in the MX2 overall behind Tommy Searle and Glenn Coldenhoff and assured Team France of top ten finishes in all their results.

"In both races I told my teammates that they must get a great start so I gave them the best gate on the starting line. I was twentieth on the grid and came back twice into the top ten after the inevitable bad starts; I gave all what I had to get these results. I made a few mistakes but I'm proud of what we did today with Gautier and Steven. I knew that we could be on the podium after we spent all the week together training in Latvia and that was great. Before the last race I was convinced that we would win!"

While the Open class rider Steven Frossard had a solid 2014, his fifth place finish in the MXGP class was put together with a mix or good results and average results. Still he was still building his career after a couple of seasons of injury and on his day could beat anyone.

Just like Demaria in 2001 Frossard put together two strong rides going 2-4 and in all fairness was the second most consistent rider of the weekend behind his team-mate Paulin.

"Today my teammates and I did a great job, and I was happy with my riding. In my first race I got the holeshot but then I had arm pump, however I still secured a second position, which was good for the team. Then in the last moto I pushed hard to come back in the top five; I knew that Gautier was leading and that we could win. It's my best race of the season; it was a great experience to be there with the French team."

FRANCE

So now we move onto Ernee, France in 2015 the French will without question be cheered no matter what team is selected. Let us just hope the 2015 defence is a little more enjoyable than their defence in 2002 when the MXoN was expected at Competition Park, and was eventually run in Bellpuig, Spain. On that day all the leading teams ran their B-Teams in defiance of Dorna who had made such a mess of the MXoN and the Competition Park mess.

Monster Energy Motocross of Nations

Race 1 top ten: 1. Gautier Paulin (FRA, Kawasaki), 35:13.245; 2. Ryan Dungey (USA, KTM), +0:03.732; 3. Maximilian Nagl (GER, Honda), +0:04.814; 4. Jeremy Van Horebeek (BEL, Yamaha), +0:13.464; 5. Aleksandr Tonkov (RUS, Husqvarna), +0:15.220; 6. Filip Bengtsson (SWE, KTM), +0:32.340; 7. Glenn Coldenhoff (NED, Suzuki), +0:36.143; 8. Tommy Searle (GBR, Kawasaki), +0:40.866; 9. Dylan Ferrandis (FRA, Kawasaki), +0:46.237; 10. Davide Guarneri (ITA, TM), +0:47.836

Race 2 top ten: 1. Kevin Strijbos (BEL, Suzuki), 35:28.584; 2. Steven Frossard (FRA, Kawasaki), +0:03.329; 3. Dean Wilson (GBR, Kawasaki), +0:21.875; 4. Tommy Searle (GBR, Kawasaki), +0:23.377; 5. Fredrik Noren (SWE, Honda), +0:25.580; 6. Eli Tomac (USA, Honda), +0:26.102; 7. Tanel Leok (EST, TM), +0:26.726; 8. Glenn Coldenhoff (NED, Suzuki), +0:27.713; 9. Dylan Ferrandis (FRA, Kawasaki), +0:43.243; 10. Marc de Reuver (NED, Honda), +0:45.552.

Race 3 top ten: 1. Gautier Paulin (FRA, Kawasaki), 34:03.950; 2. Jeremy Van Horebeek (BEL, Yamaha), +0:02.146; 3. Eli Tomac (USA, Honda), +0:04.436; 4. Steven Frossard (FRA, Kawasaki), +0:21.369; 5. Dean Wilson (GBR, Kawasaki), +0:24.872; 6. Aleksandr Tonkov (RUS, Husqvarna), +0:26.519; 7. Tanel Leok (EST, TM), +0:27.657; 8. Arnaud Tonus (SUI, Kawasaki), +0:29.083; 9. Kevin Strijbos (BEL, Suzuki), +0:31.589; 10. Rui Goncalves (POR, Yamaha), +0:47.533.

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24MX INTERNATIONAL SUPERCROSS

JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN

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The unstoppable Jason "El Hombre" Anderson claimed an impressive win in the very first 24MX supercross, held in Stockholm, Sweden. More than 15.000 fans saw Anderson dominating in what was his very first race for Husqvarna. He was joined on the podium by fellow Americans Mike Alessi (second) and Josh Hill (third). French supercross specialist Fabien Izoird, sixth, was the first European rider. East Coast cowboy Brody Wilson won the FMX event.

Anderson -supported by the Wilvo Nestaan Husqvarna Factory team for the occasion- pulled of the dream launch to his 450 career, in the spiritual homeland of Husqvarna. On Friday the circuit had been quite rutted, but the Brian Bradshaw designed track held up nicely on Saturday. Set inside the maginificent Tele2 Arena Anderson immediately felt at home. The qualifying heats went to Josh Hill, Mike Alessi and Shane McElrath. But the latter only won due to a hiccup from El Hombre. The efficient Anderson went on to win his semi. Holeshot king Mike Alessi did the same in his semi, beating Josh Hill. While Phil Nicoletti surprised many with his speed, former AMA Supercross winner Hill had a tough day at the office. During practice the Kawasaki rider had struggled with his suspension setup.

On paper Hill might have gone head-to-head with Anderson in the final, but the American SX champ simply checked out in the finally after powering his Husqvarna FC450 to the holeshot. In the final Alessi was plagued by a bad start yet the hungry MotoConcepts rider managed to come back strong. Alessi crossed the finish line second ahead of Hill, Nicoletti and McElrath.

The Freestyle contest ran it course in typical, gutsy one upmanship. With the best and sickest tricks saved for last. American Brody Wilson wowed the crowd with his backflip combos and his signature 'Kiss of Death' flip. While the level of competition was very high in general, Wilson surely

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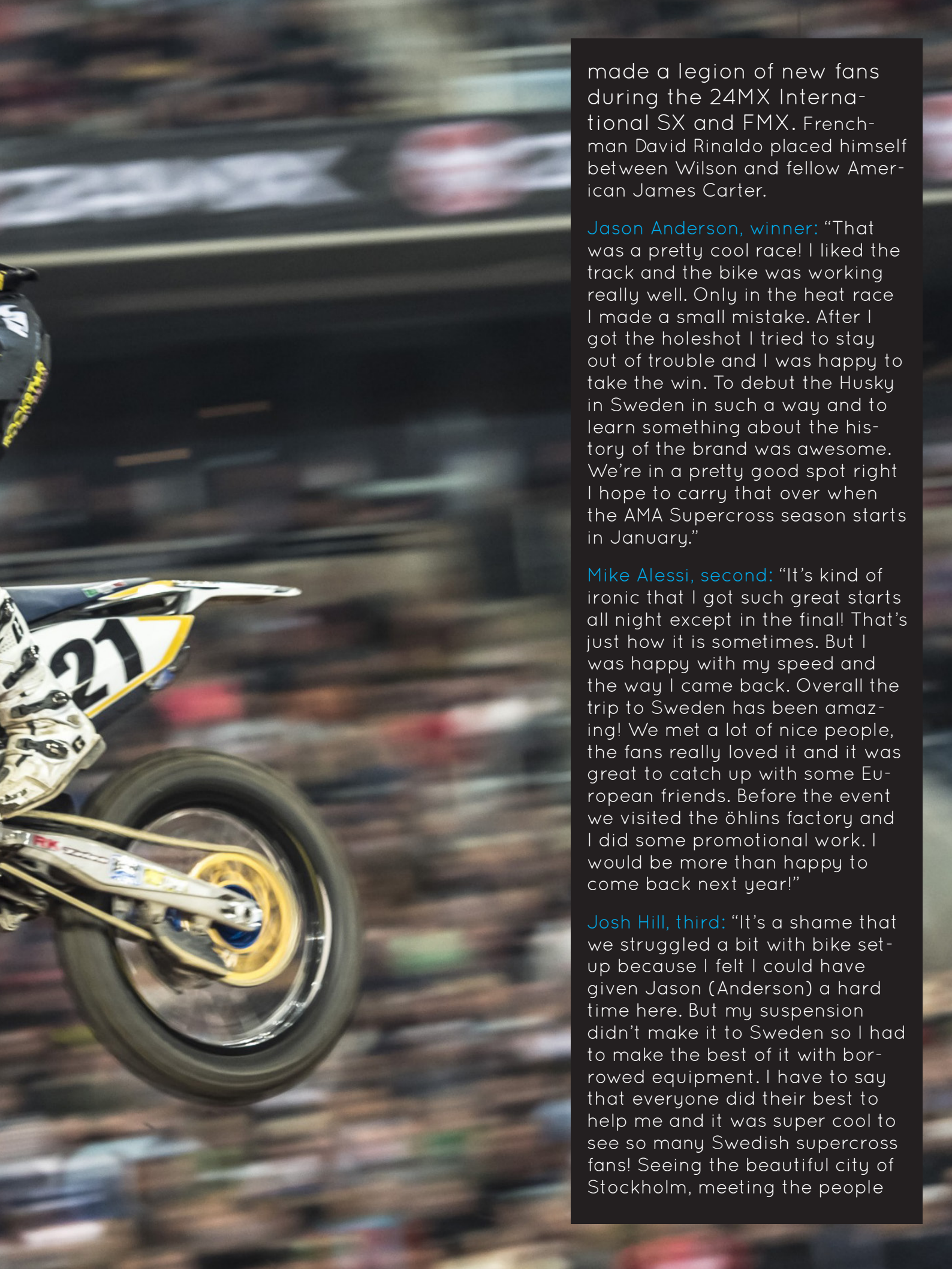

made a legion of new fans during the 24MX International SX and FMX. Frenchman David Rinaldo placed himself between Wilson and fellow American James Carter.

Jason Anderson, winner: "That was a pretty cool race! I liked the track and the bike was working really well. Only in the heat race I made a small mistake. After I got the holeshot I tried to stay out of trouble and I was happy to take the win. To debut the Husky in Sweden in such a way and to learn something about the history of the brand was awesome. We're in a pretty good spot right I hope to carry that over when the AMA Supercross season starts in January."

Mike Alessi, second: "It's kind of ironic that I got such great starts all night except in the final! That's just how it is sometimes. But I was happy with my speed and the way I came back. Overall the trip to Sweden has been amazing! We met a lot of nice people, the fans really loved it and it was great to catch up with some European friends. Before the event we visited the öhlins factory and I did some promotional work. I would be more than happy to come back next year!"

Josh Hill, third: "It's a shame that we struggled a bit with bike set-up because I felt I could have given Jason (Anderson) a hard time here. But my suspension didn't make it to Sweden so I had to make the best of it with borrowed equipment. I have to say that everyone did their best to help me and it was super cool to see so many Swedish supercross fans! Seeing the beautiful city of Stockholm, meeting the people

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RYAN VILLOPOTO

A CHANGE OF PACE

Story Geoff Meyer Image Simon Cudby

Monster Energy Kawasaki rider Ryan Villopoto comes with nothing to prove when he moves to Europe in the winter. In preparation for the 2015 FIM motocross world championship Villopoto will do pretty much what he has done so many times before. Working hard and making sure he has ticked all the boxes in what will be his final season as a racer. Geoff Meyer caught up with Villopoto this afternoon and asked him about the big move and what he expects from the 2015 challenge to the MXGP title owned by Antonio Cairoli for the last six years.

MXlarge: Ryan, obviously the whole world is excited about you coming to race the MXGP class, but tell me, how excited about this move to the MXGP series are you? It is a big change for you I would think?

Villopoto: Yes, sure. I mean we come over once a year for the Motocross of Nations, and that's cool and we visit different places and things like that. To be honest the only change will be the different places, but once we are at the track and racing, it's just racing, it's the same everywhere. Obviously different countries and different food, it's going to be fun.

MXLarge: I know you have raced the des Nations and in Canada for the Supercross, but whats the longest you have been outside America in your racing career?

Villopoto: Just a week for Motocross of Nations.

MXlarge: What is the goal for 2015?

Villopoto: It's obviously going to be different, but for me I am just going to enjoy this last season, that's my main goal and to try something new. I am going to have to learn really quick, because racing Antonio and everyone else, I mean you have to draw his name out because

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he has won so much. I mean it's going to be a quick learning curve, but it doesn't have anything to do with the tracks at all, that won't be a problem for me.

MXlarge: I am guessing you have a pretty strict preparation as a racer. What will your program be coming into the GP season?

Villopoto: My program will be tailors to the racing over here. I mean in America is much different to over here, we do 17 rounds in 18 weekends and we might not have the distance to travel, but we do way more racing in a row in the states than they do here. I have never done this series and they haven't done the series in the states. If you ask me it's much tougher to do 14 weekends straight then a weekend off and then three straight.

MXlarge: A whole day Saturday to prepare for Sunday will be nice?

Villopoto: At this point of time it's going to help me to have the Saturday to prepare for sure.

MXlarge: We talk about the huge variety in tracks we have here from sand, to hard-pack to clay, to rock. Will that be difficult to be prepared for that. I mean most American riders are pretty aggressive, and a lot of tracks here need a lot of throttle control.

Villopoto: You know obviously a lot of our motocross tracks are not hard pack, but we have a lot of Supercross tracks that are very hard, obviously not with stones in the dirt, but a place like Vegas has one of the hardest dirts we have, you can't get much harder than Vegas is, blue groove all over the track. I mean I don't know how anyone could say a track could be harder than that place. For the hard-pack stuff, or the different terrains, I am not worries about that. We might not get the rocks, but we have a fair share of different dirt in the states with Supercross and Motocross. I mean St Jean (MXoN site in 2011) I heard is one of the worst tracks they race on in Europe and I did fine there (won a moto).

MXlarge: Do you get to watch much of the GP racing on TV or anything like that?

Villopoto: I mean I do and I don't. I watch it when it's on, but honestly even in the states if I am not racing I won't watch the racing.

MXlarge: Having Tyla (Rattray) with you a lot, will that help you? What can he do for you over here?

Villopoto: I am not sure he can help me (laughing), I think I will be helping him. It will be good having somebody I know, and on the same team, more or less to have a familiar race around, that will help for sure.

MXlarge: I am guessing the most fans over here will support you, everyone respects your decision and look forward to seeing you. What do you expect from some of the rounds, in places like Italy and Belgium?

Villopoto: It's probably be like a mini Motocross of Nations every week and that will be a cool experience and I am looking forward to checking that out.

MXlarge: And Antonio Cairoli. What do you expect from him? Do you look forward to racing a guy like Cairoli?

Villopoto: To be honest, it's just another top guy on the track. It will be interesting, and I think he will catch me out in places and I will catch him out in some palces. As far as racing Cairoli, I might as well be racing Dungey or Stewart, you know. It doesn't really matter to me.

MXlarge: What is the plan for now until Qatar in February?

Villopoto: I obviously I will be getting ready, doing the normal routine as I do every year. I mean taking it as it is and see what happens when we get there. I will prepare the best I can.

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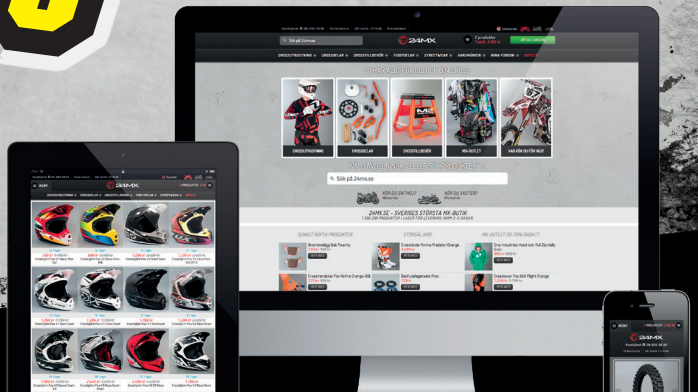

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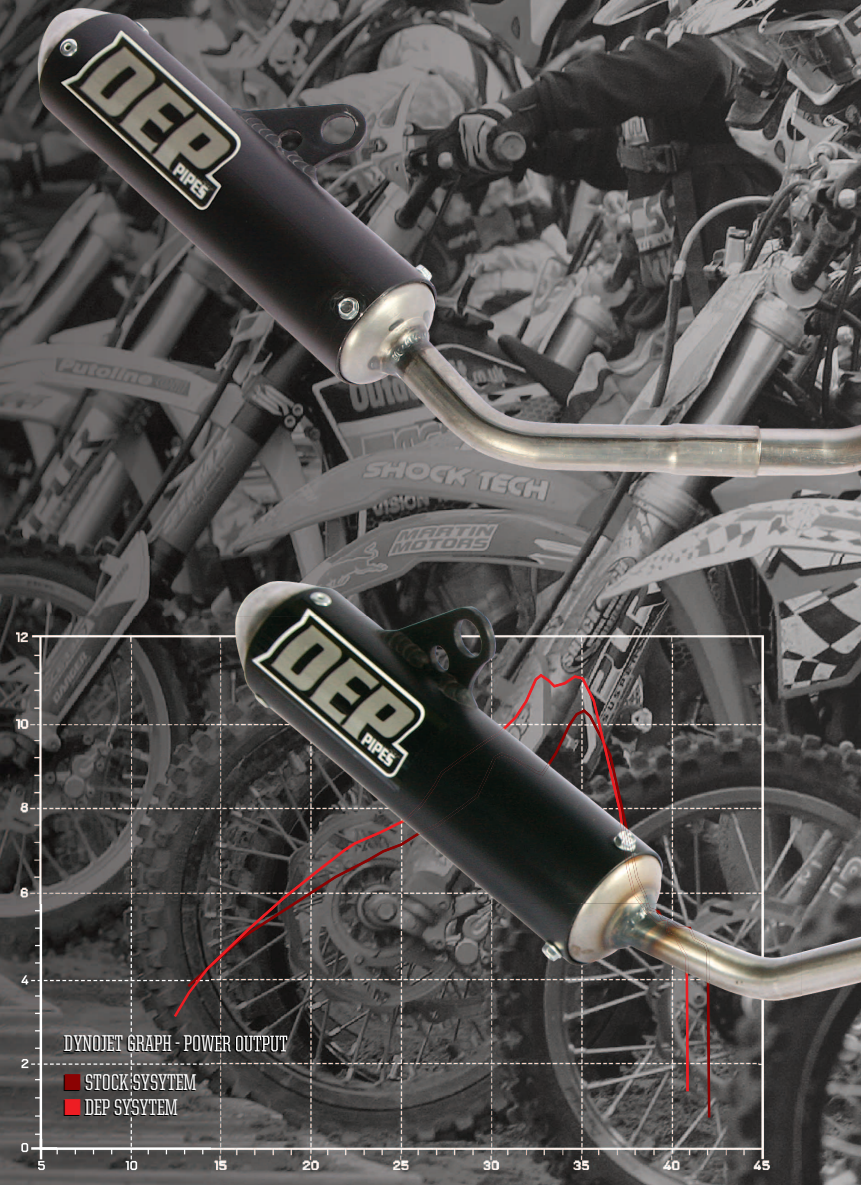

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DEAN WILSON AND KTM

A GREAT TEAM

KTM Motorsports is excited to announce the signing of athlete Dean Wilson to the Red Bull KTM Factory Team for the 2015 and 2016 AMA Pro Supercross and Motocross seasons. Wilson, the 2011 AMA 250cc Motocross Champion, will graduate to the premier 450 class full-time aboard a Red Bull KTM 450 SX-F competing in both the 2015 and 2016 Supercross and Motocross Championships.

"Dean is a very talented rider who has shown a lot of potential on a 450," commented Red Bull KTM Factory Team Manager Roger DeCoster. "In the past two years he has been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to compete in the premiere class in both SX and MX competition and shown he is very capable on the 450. Dean has definitely had his share of bad luck when it comes to injuries and things not necessarily going to plan structurally over the past few seasons. My hope is that with our support Dean will be able to find parts of the puzzle that are missing in his program and go on to experience the same level of success in the 450 class as he did in the prime of his 250 career. I like that Dean is very upbeat and has a fun personality so I think he will have no problems adapting to our Red Bull KTM family."

Residing from Scotland, the 22

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year-old comes from a notable amateur pedigree that includes 13 titles, two AMA Amateur National Championships and the AMA Horizon Award in 2009. In 2010, Wilson entered his rookie season capturing two podium finishes in the AMA Supercross 250SX East class. That same year Wilson went on to earn his first professional career motocross win at Budds Creek and was named AMA Motocross Rookie of the Year. By 2011, Wilson was becoming a household name securing his first-ever AMA Supercross 250SX win in Atlanta followed by 11 moto wins in outdoors and the 2011 AMA 250cc Motocross Championship. Sidelined with injuries over the next few seasons, Wilson was still able to attain an impressive 11 Supercross podiums between 2012 and 2014 including four AMA Supercross 250SX main event wins and most recently Anaheim III in early 2014.

KTM has signed Dean Wilson to a two-year contract, which began two weeks ago.

"I'm really excited to be involved in a great group of people," said Wilson. "They have accomplished so much the past few years, not only in the U.S. but overseas as well. This is an amazing opportunity for me to learn from Roger and Ian and the rest of the crew. They've put together a pretty amazing team and I'm looking forward to the opportunity."

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Antonio Cairoli - Ray Archer image

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Shaun Simpson - Ray Archer image

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FIM MOTOCROSS OF NATIONS
MXGP
2014
MONSTER ENERGY
FIM MOTOCROSS OF NATIONS
MXGP
FRANCE

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RED BULL KTM FACTORY TEAM

MOVING FORWARD IN 2015

STORY GEOFF MEYER IMAGES SIMON CUDBY

The Red Bull KTM Factory team have had a steady climb to the top of the World motocross ladder. Since their reintroduction into the big time of FIM and AMA Motocross they have picked up titles, and in many ways dominated

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AMA

World Motocross championships with riders like Antonio Cairoli, Jeffrey Herlings, Ken Roczen, Marvin Musquin, Jordi Tixier, Tyla Rattray, Grant Langston, James Dobb and so many others, and AMA titles with Ryan Dungey and Roczen has seen this time climb to the very top of the order of merit for team success.

2015 thought might be their biggest challenge yet as they battle against new Suzuki signing Ken Roczen in America and Monster Energy Kawasaki rider Ryan Villopoto in Europe. It's going to be the biggest challenge the team has faced since their re-entry into the big time.

In America they have selected well with Dungey staying on board in the 450cc SX and MX class and joining him is Dean Wilson, the former AMA 250cc champion and a rider who still has a lot to show. In the 250 class they will run with Musquin and new signing Justin Hill, how looked brilliant last weekend at the Monster Energy Cup.

"Riding for the Red Bull KTM factory team is a huge bonus for me," Hill said recently. "They have shown in the past that they have the bike and team to win championships and I really hope I can offer them what they are looking for. I am excited to be involved in this team and I can't wait for 2015 to arrive."

While the early favourite in the 450 SX and MX championships might be Roczen, don't be surprised to see Mister Consistent Dungey continue his great run with the orange army.

"Riding for KTM has been a successful

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3

experience, we have had good results and it's going to be another interesting season in 2015. I know this team are working hard to make their bikes the best they can be and I believed in them when I signed a few years ago and I still believe in them. Whatever happens in 2015 we will all give it 100% and let us hope we can get another couple of championship inside the KTM tent."

And don't expect Dean Wilson to be left out when the podium celebrations are being played-out. The Scottish rider knows what it takes to win championships and his solid performances in the past will make sure that he is somewhere around the podium on many occasions in 2015.

"I love the opportunity I have been given by the Red Bull KTM Factory team to race for them in 2015," Wilson said. "We live in a tough sport and to have a team like this behind you makes it a little easier. I think 2015 will be a big year for us and I hope that I can help them continue in their success."

Bring on 2015, KTM are ready to race.

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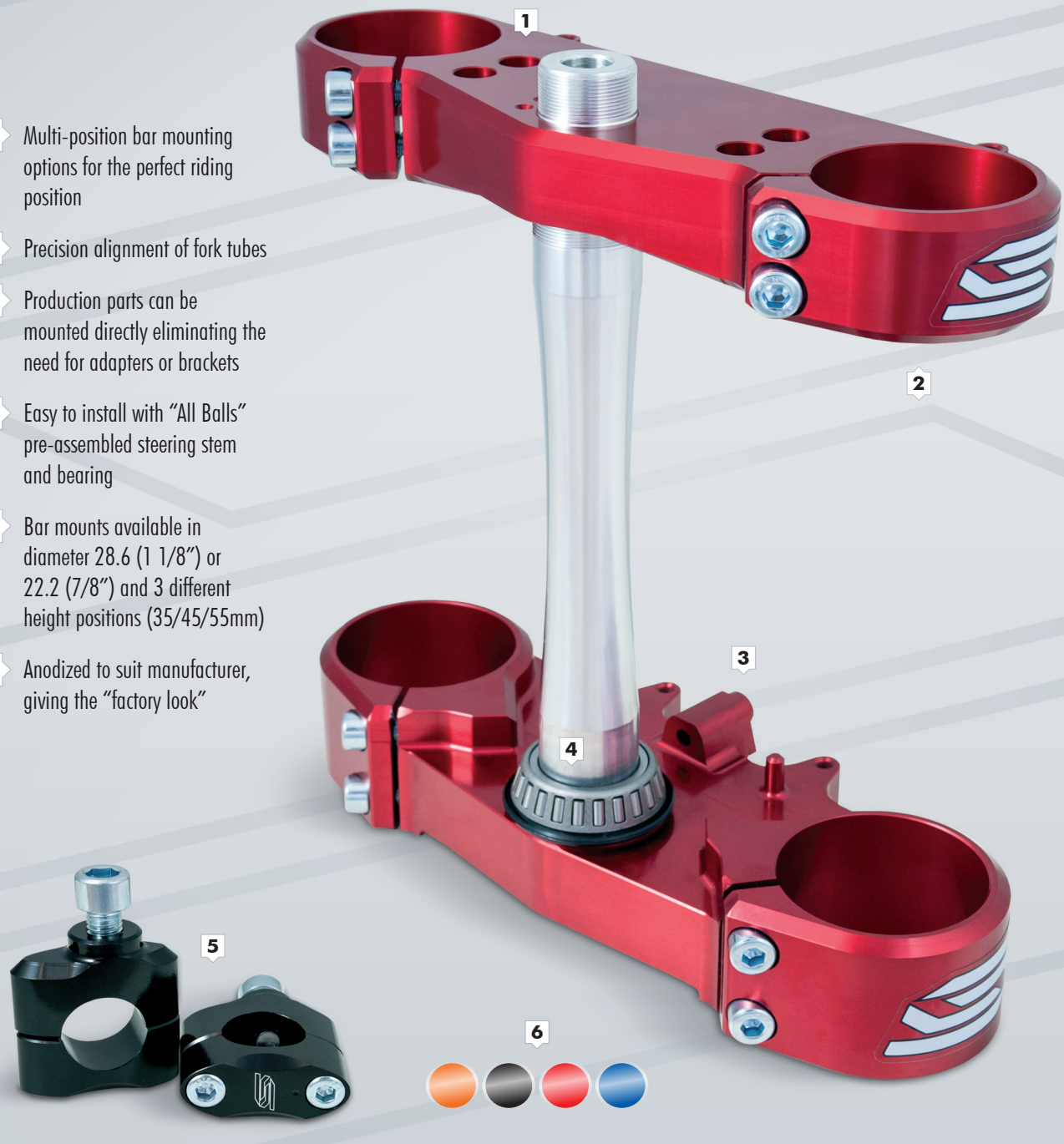

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FIM MOTOCROSS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BRING ON 2015

STORY GEOFF MEYER IMAGES KAWASAKI AND BAVO

There can't be a season that has ever or will ever reach the mammoth proportions of what we all expect in 2015. Red Bull KTM Factory rider Antonio Cairoli the GP legend up against Monster Energy Kawasaki Factory rider Ryan Villopoto the AMA legend. Two of the best our magnificent sport have seen, and after the 2015 one of these two might just be considered the greatest rider to ever pull a leg over a motocross bike. It is that big a deal.

MXGP Factory rider list 2015

Antonio Cairoli Red Bull KTM Factory

Ryan Villopoto Monster Energy Kawasaki Factory

Gautier Paulin Honda HCR Factory

Jeremy Van Horebeek Yamaha Factory

Romain Febvre Yamaha Factory

Tommy Searle Red Bull KTM Factory

Tyla Rattray Monster Energy Kawasaki Factory

Ken De Dycker Red Bull KTM Factory

Evgeny Bobryshev Honda HRC Factory

Max Nagl Red Bull Husqvarna Factory

Todd Waters Red Bull Husqvarna Factory

Clement Desalle Suzuki Factory

Kevin Strijbos Suzuki Factory

Dean Ferris Husqvarna semi-Factory

Glenn Coldenhoff Suzuki Factory

Christophe Charlier Honda Racing Team

Doesn't matter from what side of the Atlantic Ocean you come, 2015 is going to be epic. Here is the calendar and also some information about what we can expect.

The 2015 FIM MXGP and MX2 calendar has been put into place and it's nice to see Valkenswaard back on the calendar. Pretty awesome calendar to be honest with a lot of old school circuits and some interesting overseas GP's.

2015 FIM MXGP & MX2 Motocross World Championship

28 February* QMMF Losail Qatar

08 March FMSCT Nakhonchaisri Thailand

29 March CAMOD Neuquen Argentina

19 April FMI Arco di Trento Italy

26 April KNMV Valkenswaard Netherlands

10 May RFME Talavera Spain

24 May ACU Matterley Basin Great Britain

31 May FFM Villars-sous-Ecot France

14 June FMI Maggiora Italy

21 June DMSB Teutschenthal Germany

05 July SVEMO Uddevalla Sweden

12 July LaMSF Kegums Latvia

26 July ACCR Loket Czech Rep.

02 August FMB Lommel Belgium

16 August CBM Trindade Brazil

30 August KNMV Assen Netherlands

13 September FMM Leon Mexico

20 September AMA Glen Helen USA

27 September - FIM Motocross of Nations, Ernée, France

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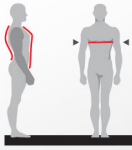

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